Details about Import of Rubber

1278. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the import of natural as well as synthetic rubber by Government and private parties during the last two years; and

(b) whether Government propose to permit private parties to import natural or synthetic rubber in the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The details regarding import of natural as well as synthetic rubber by the Government and private parties during the last two years are as under:—

	On Govt Account (Tonnes)		Private Parties (Manufacturers directly under export incentive scheme)	
	Natural Rubber	Synthetic Rubber	Natural Rubber	Synthetic Rubber
1991-92 . .	NIL	NIL	14500	39800
1992-93 . .	NIL	NIL	16498(P)	50118(P)

P—Provisional

(b) Import of natural rubber is allowed to only to such an extent so as to meet the demand-supply gap. The estimated production and consumption of natural rubber during 1993-94 is 4,40,000 tonnes and 4,51,000 tonnes respectively. In order to meet the demand-supply gap, the Government had allowed the rubber consuming industry to import 10,000 metric tonnes of natural rubber during the lean production period of 1993-94. The actual import as per information available is only 4131 tonnes. However, it is too early to indicate the position regarding import of natural rubber during 1994-95.

The import of synthetic rubber is allowed under the Open General Licence (OGL) system.

Fall in Price of Rubber

1279. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the fall in the price of rubber; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken or are proposed to be taken to deal with the situation in order to protect the interest of the growers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir but the prices are still above the Bench Mark.

(b) A Buffer Stocking Scheme is being operated from 1986 to ensure reasonable return to the rubber growers and making available rubber to the consuming industry at a fair price. However, it is too early to indicate the position regarding procurement of Rubber at present. As and when the need arises, the procurement is normally made at lower limit of the price and on the basis of the existing Bench Mark Price, under the Buffer Stocking Scheme.

Imposition of levy on Products Marked for Exports

1280. SHRI MENTAY PADMANBHAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have requested State Governments not to impose levies on products which are ear-marked totally for imports;